

Pedestrian Safety Facts and Tips

Did You Know:

- That the typical pedestrian victim in 2012 was a male over the age of 25? This is not primarily a child centered issue.
- 80% of the pedestrian injuries and fatalities occurred in New Castle County and majority of those in the Wilmington area as opposed to Sussex County at the beaches?
- The top factors in our state's pedestrian deaths are:
 - alcohol use on the part of the pedestrian (57% of the fatalities)
 - pedestrian crossing outside of crosswalks
 - pedestrian crossing the road at night wearing dark clothing
 - pedestrian walking in the roadway

Pedestrian Facts

- In 2012 almost half of the pedestrian crashes occurred between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- There were 428 traffic crashes which involved at least 1 pedestrian.
- 7% of the crashes were fatal crashes.
- 75% of the crashes were personal injury crashes.
- There were 30 pedestrians killed in 2012, up from 19 in 2011.
- Of the 30 pedestrians killed, 17 were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Safety Tips (and laws):

- It's illegal to walk under the influence of alcohol and or drugs.
- It's also illegal to hitchhike.
- Motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks – but pedestrians must not step out into a crosswalk if doing so will create a hazard to the driver of the vehicle.
- Pedestrians must cross at intersections when possible – and if they're crossing outside of an intersection, they must yield the right-of-way to motorists.
- Motorists have a responsibility to share the road safely and be on the lookout for pedestrians – and should actively look for pedestrians in neighborhoods, intense urban areas and the beach towns.
- If you can't walk on a sidewalk, you must walk facing traffic...and walk as far off the edge as possible.
- When walking at night you must carry a flashlight or other reflective item so you can be seen by motorists.

Pedestrian Safety for Children in Neighborhoods

Pedestrian injuries tend to occur to younger children ages 5 – 19. Motorists in neighborhoods should be on the lookout for kids who might dart out mid block or dart out to get balls or other items without paying attention. Parents should not allow children to cross the street on their own until they've practiced the basics with them hundreds of times. Kids should stop at the edge of the curb or any object in the roadway (like a car) and look left, right, and left again before crossing. Once you start crossing the street, keep looking from side to side until you've made it across safely. Never blindly run out into the road.